

From: Jamie
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/25/02 1:26pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear Department of Justice Folks,

I'm writing to add another voice to the chorus against the proposed Microsoft settlement. It appears to reward Microsoft for years of criminal and predatory practices that have damaged and eliminated innovative competitors and limited consumer choice.

Good technologies have been lost, standards have been hijacked into a proprietary fiefdom, consumer choice has been diminished and we now have an industry dominated by a company, Microsoft, that has a history of winning through intimidation rather than through merit.

Microsoft's much ballyhooed "freedom to innovate" seems to really mean "freedom to intimidate." They continue to use their monopoly position to move into other markets by forcing others out or simply buying out other companies using their huge stash of ill-gotten gains.

It seems to me your case has been too narrowly focused on only a few of the abuses, and even at that, the currently proposed remedy does not have sufficient teeth to prevent further such abuses in the future. It basically tells the world that, in our country, justice is about having money and influence.

As a consumer and as a software developer I am appalled at the limited choices and poor state of technology in the operating systems market as now dominated by Microsoft. I mourn for better technologies that have been eliminated along the way, such as the Amiga and BeOS. I am alarmed at the prospect of Microsoft's philosophy of bullying and mediocrity taking over other markets in technology, commerce, media and the internet itself, all leveraged illegally off of their desktop monopoly.

If we are going to have an effective government by and for the people, it behooves us to make every attempt to keep our corporations under our control as a nation, rather than vice versa.

If we want a vibrant competitive marketplace that helps us lead the world in technology, commerce and real innovation, we cannot afford to let Microsoft's criminal abuses go essentially unpunished nor can we afford to let these sorts of abuses continue. If we want our economy to thrive we need to unleash real competition.

Best Regards,
-Jamie Krutz

